

CLAIMS

1. Collapsible ramp (100) comprising a collapsible deck (102) including a plurality of elongate members (106, 110, 112, 114, 116) and a collapsible support structure (104), the elongate members (106...) and support structure (104) being configured such that when the deck (102) is deployed on the support structure (104) the deck (102) has a generally concave upper surface (188) and the ramp (100) can be collapsed when not deployed.

2. The ramp of claim 1 wherein the upper surface (188) of the deployed deck (102) substantially defines a transition curve.

3. The ramp of claim 1 or 2 wherein the upper surface (188) of the deployed deck (102) is substantially continuously curved.

4. The ramp (100) of any preceding claim wherein the elongate members (106...) engage each other in a form locking manner (120, 122) when the deck (102) is deployed.

5. The ramp (2, 100) of any preceding claim wherein the elongate members (6, 20, 24; 106, 110, 112, 114, 116) are interconnected (8, 124) whereby when the deck (4, 102) is separated from the support structure (10, 104) and in its collapsed state, the elongate members (6...; 106...) remain connected to each other.

6. The ramp (100) of claim 5 wherein the elongate members (106...) are interconnected by at least one filament (123).

7. The ramp (2) of claim 5 wherein the elongate members (6...) are interconnected by hinges (8) with axes disposed parallel to longitudinal axes (99) of the elongate members (6...) and are configured to allow the deck (4) to be rolled up when collapsed.

8. The ramp (100) of any preceding claim wherein an entry end (109) of the deck (102) is tapered (108) so as to provide a smooth transition onto the ramp.

9. The ramp of any preceding claim wherein an exit end (117) of the deck (102) has a rounded upper distal edge (118).

10. The ramp (100) of any preceding claim wherein the elongate members (106...) are moulded plastics members.

11. The ramp (100) of any preceding claim wherein the support structure (104) comprises members (128, 130, 148, 150) which are hingebly interconnected (132, 152) in such a manner that they remain interconnected when the support structure (104) is in a collapsed state.

12. The ramp of claim 11 wherein the support structure (104) includes longitudinal members (126) each of which is foldable so as to reduce its length.

13. The ramp of any preceding claim wherein the support structure (104) includes longitudinal members (126) laterally interconnected by collapsible bracing means (140) which bracing means (140) are collapsible to permit adjacent longitudinal members (126) to move towards each other.

14. The ramp (100) of any preceding claim wherein the support structure (104) includes deck support members (126) and legs (148, 150) which are hingeably connected (152) to the deck support members (126).

15. The ramp of any preceding claim wherein first engagement means (124) on an underside of the deck (102) is adapted to selectively engage complementary second engagement means (146) on the support structure (104).

16. The ramp (100) according to any preceding claim wherein the support structure (104) includes feet (160, 182) with through apertures (166) and fastening means (168, 186) adapted to pass through the apertures (166) for engagement with a ramp support surface.